

Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete paragraph [0010].

Please replace paragraph [0017] through [0019] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0017] Samples of webs embodying the instant invention have been tested and the results are compiled in the ~~tables~~ table shown in ~~Figs. 1 and 2~~ Fig. 1. The tests were performed on a TSI 8130, a well-known machine for testing filtration characteristics of materials. The tests were performed under conditions of 90 liters per minute of air flow, with samples of approximately 6 inches wide by 6 inches long having a weight of approximately 8.0 grams. The resulting penetration of DOP (dioctyl phthalate) oil is measured at 15 minutes duration, and has been recorded in the ~~tables of Figs. 1 and 2~~ table of Fig. 1. Because the results obtained are the percentage of the oil that penetrates the filtration material, the lower the penetration number, the better the filtration material performed. The rows in Fig. 1 are arranged in order of sample performance. ~~The rows in Fig. 2 are arranged in order to place sample types that are similar near each other for comparison.~~

[0018] It should be noted that samples 1 and 4 of Fig. 1 have fiber types and compositions similar to the filtration material described in U.S. Patent No. 4,798,850 to Brown. Thus, the present invention's performance, as shown in samples 3 and 5, can be compared to the performance of the prior art. Additionally, ~~samples 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 of Fig. 2 included scoured polypropylene as in the Brown patent. Samples 1, 3, 5, 7, 9~~

and 11 of Fig. 2 included ~~unscoured~~ Samples with unscoured polypropylene fibers with a measurable amount of extractable agent, ~~but resulted~~ result in significantly lower penetration amounts than the samples with similar percentages of scoured polypropylene.

[0019] Samples 2, 3 and 5 of Fig. 1 are made according to the invention. These samples had significantly better performance than samples 1 and 4, which represent the prior art. ~~The same conclusion can be made from the data of Fig. 2.~~ This shows that a filtration material can be made without the added expense of cleaning the polypropylene fibers. Indeed, the polypropylene fibers used in the present invention had measurable quantities of an extractable agent, but performed substantially better than the products made according to the prior art. It is not fully understood why a product that has measurable quantities of extractable agents performs better than a product with the extractables removed by scouring. It is theorized that the scouring process may etch or otherwise deleteriously affect the fibers themselves, or leave other contaminants that affect the resulting filter's performance. Thus, it is contemplated that a low or no finish modacrylic or acrylic would produce good results with a low or no finish polypropylene or even a scoured polypropylene, if a process for making such fibers is developed.